

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a breast pump having an attachment (6) releasably applied to an opening of a container (2) and having a breast attachment element (6.1), and a manual pump unit (3) which is releasably connected to the attachment (6) by a connecting sleeve (5.3) or a connecting bore having a cap-shaped connecting section, and a pump piston (7) which can be moved back and forth in a stroke chamber (5.2) with an actuating handle (4), which is pivotable and has a retracting mechanism (8, 8'), the improvement comprising:

the cap-shaped connecting section and the stroke chamber (5.2) combined in a mutual cap element (5), which is fixed on the attachment (6) by retaining means (5.1, 5.3) having a snap-in element (5.1) snapped together with the attachment (6) when the cap element is coupled to the attachment (6), and

the retracting mechanism (8) having one side acting on the actuating handle (4) and seated with an other side on the cap element (5), wherein seating elements are arranged on both lateral sections of the cap element (5) and on both lateral sections of the actuating handle (4) which in a form of separable bearing pin/bearing eye connection form a pivot axis between the actuating handle (4) and the cap element (5).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

2. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein in a completely inserted state of the pump piston (7), a stroke chamber opening (5.4) on a side of the stroke chamber (5.2) facing away from the breast connection element (6.1) is covered by an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) which in a position of use is located above a pivot axis.

3. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 2, wherein the stroke chamber (5.2) in the cap element (5) is curved in an arc-shape in accordance with a movement path of the pump piston (7) which is actuated by an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4).

4. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 3, wherein with the container attached, a pivot path of the upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) near a connection to the pump piston (7) is selected so large that in a moved-out state at least an upper edge section of the pump piston (7) is outside of an upper opening edge of the stroke chamber opening (5.4).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

5. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 4, wherein a retracting mechanism (8) has at least one tension spring, a suspension element (4.3) is positioned on the actuating handle (4), and a further suspension element is positioned on the cap element (5) so that with an inserted piston position a direction of a tensile force lies above a pivot axis of the actuating handle (4) at least until with the container (2) attached the actuating handle (4) reaches a maximum pivot angle in a retraction direction of the pump piston (7), and with the container (2) removed and with a further increased pivot angle the direction of the tensile force is below the pivot axis so that the actuating handle (4) is maintained in an opened position in relation to the cap element (5).

6. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 4, wherein the retracting mechanism (8') has at least one pressure spring, a support element (4.7) on an inside of the actuating handle (4) and a support section (5.11) at the cap element (5) are positioned so that at least with a piston rod inserted, a direction of force of pressure lies below the pivot axis of the actuating handle (4).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

7. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 6, wherein the pressure spring is a spiral spring with a front suspension lug suspended and retained in a support section (5.11) of a free end section of the retaining element (5.1) which is oriented downward when in use and arcs upward in a U-shape in an interior chamber of the cap element (5) and the attachment (6) and is supported with a free end section bent from the suspension lug on a support element (4.7) arranged on an inside of the actuating handle (4).

8. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 7, wherein an electric pump is directly connected with a hose to the connecting sleeve (5.3) arranged on the attachment (6) or to the connecting bore.

9. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 8, wherein a connecting point between one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connecting bore and the cap element (5) is sealed by one of a conical connection and a seal ring.

Serial No.: 10/049,209

10. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 9, wherein an opening is provided on the attachment (6) near the connecting sleeve (5.3) or the connection bore, which can be closed by one of a stopper and a hand.

11. (Previously Presented) In a breast pump having an attachment (6) releasably applied to an opening of a container (2) and having a breast attachment element (6.1), and a manual pump unit (3) which is releasably connected to the attachment (6) by a connecting sleeve (5.3) or a connecting bore having a cap-shaped connecting section, and a pump piston (7) which can be moved back and forth in a stroke chamber (5.2) with an actuating handle (4), which is pivotable and has a retracting mechanism (8, 8'), the improvement comprising:

the cap-shaped connecting section and the stroke chamber (5.2) combined in a mutual cap element (5), which is fixed on the attachment (6) by retaining means (5.1, 5.3), the retracting mechanism (8) having one side acting on the actuating handle (4) and seated with an other side on the cap element (5), in a completely inserted state of the pump piston (7), a stroke chamber opening (5.4) on a side of the stroke chamber (5.2) facing away from the breast connection element (6.1) covered by an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) which in a position of use is located above a pivot axis, the stroke chamber (5.2) in the cap element (5)

Serial No.: 10/049,209

curved in an arc-shape in accordance with a movement path of the pump piston (7) which is actuated by an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4), with the container attached, a pivot path of the upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) near a connection to the pump piston (7) selected so large that in a moved-out state at least an upper edge section of the pump piston (7) is outside of an upper opening edge of the stroke chamber opening (5.4), the retracting mechanism (8') having at least one pressure spring, a support element (4.7) on an inside of the actuating handle (4) and a support section (5.11) at the cap element (5) positioned so that at least with a piston rod inserted, a direction of force of pressure lies below the pivot axis of the actuating handle (4), the pressure spring being a spiral spring with a front suspension lug suspended and retained in a support section (5.11) of a free end section of the retaining element (5.1) which is oriented downward when in use and arcs upward in a U-shape in an interior chamber of the cap element (5) and the attachment (6) and is supported with a free end section bent from the suspension lug on a support element (4.7) arranged on an inside of the actuating handle (4), an electric pump directly connected with a hose to the connecting sleeve (5.3) arranged on the attachment (6) or to the connecting bore, a connecting point between one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connecting bore and the cap element (5) sealed by one of a conical connection and a seal ring, an opening provided on the attachment (6) near the connecting sleeve (5.3) or the connection bore, which can be closed by one of a

Serial No.: 10/049,209

stopper and a hand, and the retaining means (5.1, 5.3) having a snap-in element (5.1) which snaps together with the attachment (6) when the cap element (5) is coupled to the attachment (6).

12. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 11, wherein the snap-in element (5.1) is embodied as a snap-in tongue (5.1) which is oriented toward the container (2) with a free end section which, in the attached state, extends with a snap-in section behind an edge of the attachment (6) facing toward the container (2) when the cap element (5), located opposite the snap-in tongue (5.1), is pushed on one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connecting bore, which are oriented axis-parallel in relation to the container (2).

13. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 12, wherein an interior of the cap element (5) has one of retaining flaps (5.5) and ribs on both sides which form guide elements when placed on the attachment (6) and securing elements against twisting of the cap element (5) in relation to the attachment (6).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

14. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 38, wherein seating elements are arranged on both of the lateral sections of the cap element (5) and on both lateral sections of the actuating handle (4) which in a form of separable bearing pin/bearing eye connection form the pivot axis between the actuating handle (4) and the cap element (5).

15. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 13, wherein in a rear area remote from the breast attachment element (6.1) the cap element (5) has a rounded top which in the pivoted-in state of the upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) makes a steady transition into the curved exterior of the actuating handle (4).

16. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 15, wherein a cross section of the upper section (4.1) and the lower section (4.2) are each outwardly rounded on a rear facing away from the breast attachment element (6.1) and make a steady transition into each other, and an obtuse angle open toward the rear is formed between the upper section (4.1) and the lower section (4.2).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

17. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 16, wherein an intermediate piece is insertable into a V-shaped gap which when the actuating handle (4) is pivoted is formed in the upper area between the upper section (4.1) and an edge of the stroke chamber opening (5.4), by which a stroke travel of the pump piston (7) is preset to be one of continuous and stepped.

18. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 17, wherein spacer cams which contact the upper edge of the container (2) in the attached state are on an inside of a screw connector (6.2) of the attachment (6) for connecting with the container (2) so that an air exchange with an atmosphere is provided in the attached state.

19. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 18, wherein the pump piston (7) has a piston rod (7.3) with a backward oriented end section having a releasable hinged connection with the upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

20. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 19, wherein a protrusion made of a soft material is arranged on the interior on a container side of the lower section (4.2) of the actuating handle (4) forming a stop between the actuating handle (4) and the container (2).

21. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 20, wherein the manual pump unit (3) and the attachment (6) are arranged so that a weight of each is compensated, and in the empty state with the attachment (6) placed on and the manual pump unit attached (3), the container (2) remains upright.

22. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 21, wherein a secondary air regulating unit (9) which can be operated manually from an outside is on the cap element (5) for ventilating a suction chamber which varies during a pump operation.

23. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 22, wherein the secondary air regulating unit (9) has at least one of a rotatable insert (9.2) and an attachment (9.3) arranged on an exterior of the cap

Serial No.: 10/049,209

element (5) which when rotated a flow-through conduit which leads through a wall in the cap element (5) into the stroke chamber (5.2) is one of opened and closed.

24. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein the stroke chamber (5.2) in the cap element (5) is curved in an arc-shape in accordance with a movement path of the pump piston (7) which is actuated by an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4).

25. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein with the container attached, a pivot path of an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) near a connection to the pump piston (7) is selected so large that in a moved-out state at least an upper edge section of the pump piston (7) is outside of an upper opening edge of the stroke chamber opening (5.4).

26. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein a retracting mechanism (8) has at least one tension spring, a suspension element (4.3) is positioned on the actuating handle (4), and a further suspension element is positioned on the cap element (5) so that with an inserted piston position a direction of a tensile force lies above a pivot axis of the actuating handle (4) at least until with the container (2) attached the actuating handle (4) reaches a

Serial No.: 10/049,209

maximum pivot angle in a retraction direction of the pump piston (7), and with the container (2) removed and with a further increased pivot angle the direction of the tensile force is below the pivot axis so that the actuating handle (4) is maintained in an opened position in relation to the cap element (5).

27. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein a retracting mechanism (8') has at least one pressure spring, a support element (4.7) on an inside of the actuating handle (4) and a support section (5.11) at the cap element (5) are positioned so that at least with a piston rod inserted, a direction of force of pressure lies below the pivot axis of the actuating handle (4).

28. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 27, wherein the pressure spring is a spiral spring with a front suspension lug suspended and retained in a support section (5.11) of a free end section of the retaining element (5.1) which is oriented downward when in use and arcs upward in a U-shape in an interior chamber of the cap element (5) and the attachment (6) and is supported with a free end section bent from the suspension lug on a support element (4.7) arranged on an inside of the actuating handle (4).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

29. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein an electric pump is directly connected with a hose to the connecting sleeve (5.3) arranged on the attachment (6) or to the connecting bore.

30. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein a connecting point between one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connecting bore and the cap element (5) is sealed by one of a conical connection and a seal ring.

31. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein an opening is provided on the attachment (6) near one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connection bore, which can be closed by one of a stopper and a hand.

Claim 32 canceled.

33. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 32, wherein the snap-in element (5.1) is embodied as a snap-in tongue (5.1) which is oriented toward the container (2) with a free end section which, in the attached state, extends with a snap-in section behind an edge of the attachment (6)

Serial No.: 10/049,209

facing toward the container (2) when the cap element (5), located opposite the snap-in tongue (5.1), is pushed on one of the connecting sleeve (5.3) and the connecting bore, which are oriented axis-parallel in relation to the container (2).

34. (Currently Amended) In a breast pump having an attachment (6) releasably applied to an opening of a container (2) and having a breast attachment element (6.1), and a manual pump unit (3) which is releasably connected to the attachment (6) by a connecting sleeve (5.3) or a connecting bore having a cap-shaped connecting section, and a pump piston (7) which can be moved back and forth in a stroke chamber (5.2) with an actuating handle (4), which is pivotable and has a retracting mechanism (8, 8'), the improvement comprising:

the cap-shaped connecting section and the stroke chamber (5.2) combined in a mutual cap element (5), which is fixed on the attachment (6) by retaining means (5.1, 5.3) having a snap-in element (5.1) snapped together with the attachment (6) when the cap element is coupled to the attachment (6), and

the retracting mechanism (8) having one side acting on the actuating handle (4) and seated with an other side on the cap element (5), wherein an interior of the cap element (5) has one of retaining flaps (5.5) and ribs on both sides which form guide elements when placed on the attachment (6) and securing elements against twisting of the cap element (5) in relation to the attachment (6).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

35. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 34, wherein seating elements are arranged on both lateral sections of the cap element (5) and on both lateral sections of the actuating handle (4) which in a form of separable bearing pin/bearing eye connection form a pivot axis between the actuating handle (4) and the cap element (5).

36. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 2, wherein in a rear area remote from the breast attachment element (6.1) the cap element (5) has a rounded top which in a pivoted-in state of an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) makes a steady transition into the curved exterior of the actuating handle (4).

37. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein a cross section of an upper section (4.1) and a lower section (4.2) of the actuating handle (4) are each outwardly rounded on a rear facing away from the breast attachment element (6.1) and make a steady transition into each other, and an obtuse angle open toward the rear is formed between the upper section (4.1) and the lower section (4.2).

Serial No.: 10/049,209

38. (Currently Amended) In a breast pump having an attachment (6) releasably applied to an opening of a container (2) and having a breast attachment element (6.1), and a manual pump unit (3) which is releasably connected to the attachment (6) by a connecting sleeve (5.3) or a connecting bore having a cap-shaped connecting section, and a pump piston (7) which can be moved back and forth in a stroke chamber (5.2) with an actuating handle (4), which is pivotable and has a retracting mechanism (8, 8'), the improvement comprising:

the cap-shaped connecting section and the stroke chamber (5.2) combined in a mutual cap element (5), which is fixed on the attachment (6) by retaining means (5.1, 5.3) having a snap-in element (5.1) snapped together with the attachment (6) when the cap element is coupled to the attachment (6), and

the retracting mechanism (8) having one side acting on the actuating handle (4) and seated with an other side on the cap element (5), wherein an intermediate piece is insertable into a V-shaped gap which when the actuating handle (4) is pivoted is formed in an upper area between an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4) and an edge of the stroke chamber opening (5.4), by which a stroke travel of the pump piston (7) is preset to be one of continuous and stepped.

Serial No.: 10/049,209

39. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein spacer cams which contact an upper edge of the container (2) in an attached state are on an inside of a screw connector (6.2) of the attachment (6) for connecting with the container (2) so that an air exchange with an atmosphere is provided in the attached state.

40. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein the pump piston (7) has a piston rod (7.3) with a backward oriented end section having a releasable hinged connection with an upper section (4.1) of the actuating handle (4).

41. (Currently Amended) In a breast pump having an attachment (6) releasably applied to an opening of a container (2) and having a breast attachment element (6.1), and a manual pump unit (3) which is releasably connected to the attachment (6) by a connecting sleeve (5.3) or a connecting bore having a cap-shaped connecting section, and a pump piston (7) which can be moved back and forth in a stroke chamber (5.2) with an actuating handle (4), which is pivotable and has a retracting mechanism (8, 8'), the improvement comprising:

the cap-shaped connecting section and the stroke chamber (5.2) combined in a mutual cap element (5), which is fixed on the attachment (6) by

Serial No.: 10/049,209

retaining means (5.1, 5.3) having a snap-in element (5.1) snapped together with the attachment (6) when the cap element is coupled to the attachment (6), and

the retracting mechanism (8) having one side acting on the actuating handle (4) and seated with an other side on the cap element (5), wherein a protrusion made of a soft material is arranged on the interior on a container side of a lower section (4.2) of the actuating handle (4) forming a stop between the actuating handle (4) and the container (2).

42. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein the manual pump unit (3) and the attachment (6) are arranged so that a weight of each is compensated, and in an empty state with the attachment (6) placed on and the manual pump unit attached (3), the container (2) remains upright.

43. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 1, wherein a secondary air regulating unit (9) which can be operated manually from an outside is on the cap element (5) for ventilating a suction chamber which varies during a pump operation.

Serial No.: 10/049,209

44. (Previously Presented) In the breast pump in accordance with claim 43, wherein the secondary air regulating unit (9) has at least one of a rotatable insert (9.2) and an attachment (9.3) arranged on an exterior of the cap element (5) which when rotated a flow-through conduit which leads through a wall in the cap element (5) into the stroke chamber (5.2) is one of opened and closed.

45-54. Canceled